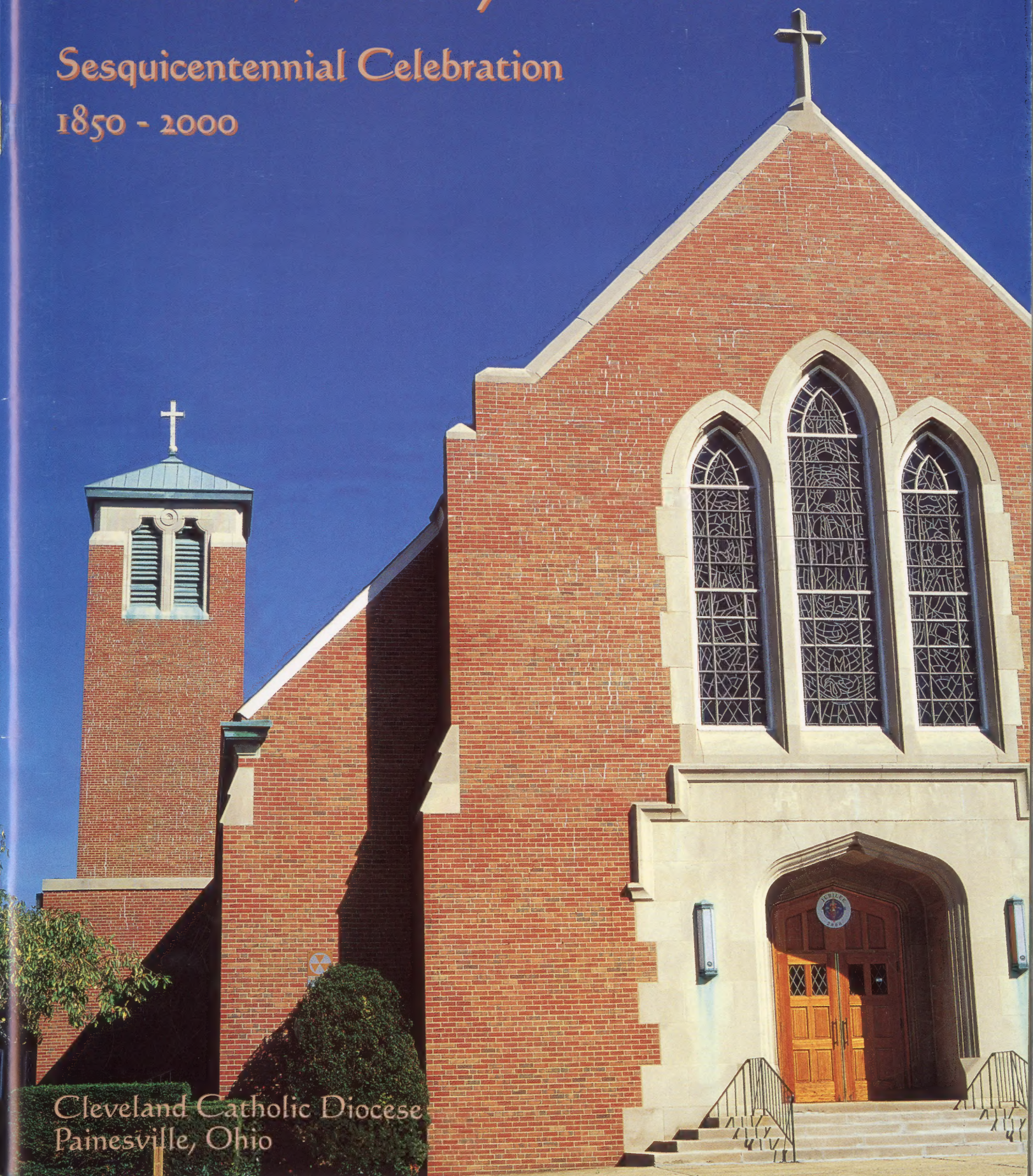


Saint Mary Church

Sesquicentennial Celebration

1850 - 2000



Cleveland Catholic Diocese
Painesville, Ohio



His Holiness John Paul II

cordially imparts his
Apostolic Blessing

as a pledge of divine graces and protection to the

Pastor and the **People**

of **St. Mary Parish, Painesville, Ohio.**

on the occasion of its 150th **A**nniversary,
1850 - 2000.

Ex Aedibus Vaticanis

+ Oscar Ruzante

Archiepiscopus Eleemosynarius Apostolicus



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

From the Vatican, September 16, 2000

No. 482.816

Dear Bishop Pilla,

The Holy Father was pleased to learn of the forthcoming 150th Anniversary of the founding of Saint Mary's Parish in Painesville. He sends cordial greetings to the priests, Religious and lay faithful taking part in the celebration and joins them in praising Almighty God for the countless blessings bestowed on the Parish over the last century and a half.

Through the faithful proclamation of the Word and the fervent celebration of the Sacraments in the parish church, God continues to build up his People "into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 2:5). His Holiness prays that the parishioners of Saint Mary's will continue to be a vibrant community, glorifying God in his majesty, embracing the fullness of the Catholic faith with conviction and bearing joyful witness to the saving "truth of the Gospel" (Gal 2:4). In this year of the Great Jubilee, he encourages them to commit themselves with ever greater fervor to the work of the new evangelization. Since it is through the parish that "the Church is placed in the neighborhoods of humanity" (Christifideles Laici, 27) its members play an indispensable role in the pressing task of fostering a culture of life and a civilization of love.

Entrusting the priests, parishioners and friends of Saint Mary's Parish to the loving protection of Mary, Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church, the Holy Father gladly imparts the requested Apostolic Blessing.

With my own good wishes for the occasion, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Secretary of State

The Most Reverend Anthony Pilla
Bishop of Cleveland
Chancery Building
1027 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114



St. Mary Church

242 North State Street • Painesville, Ohio 44077

150th Anniversary • 1850 - 2000

Fr. R. Stephen Vellenga, *Pastor*
 Fr. John Ostrowski, *Associate Pastor*
 Fr. Patrick Henry, *Associate Pastor*
 Fr. Robert G. Hanzo, *Pastor-Emeritus*
 Rev. Mr. Paul Hlabse, *Deacon*
 Mrs. Kathleen Cherney, *School Principal*
 Sr. Mary Kormanec, V.S.C., *Parish School of Religion*
 Edith Denes, *Music Director*

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Special Thanks!

Just a note of thanks to all the parishioners and local business owners for their support of the St. Mary Church Anniversary Commemorative Book.

Without their support, this publication would not have been possible.

When browsing through our history book, take a moment to notice these parishioners and local businesses. Please consider their services and mention you saw their listings.

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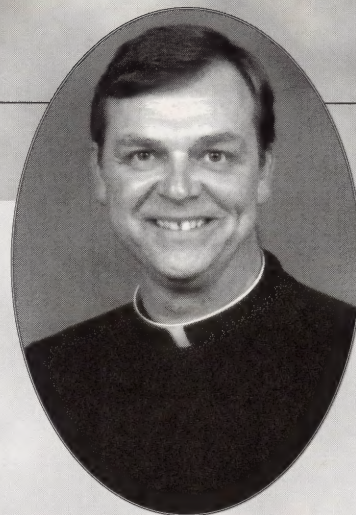
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Saint Mary Church

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Dear Parishioners,

Life in the second half of the 19th century is hard to imagine for Catholics who lived in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties. The missionary nature of this epoch had been changed by the establishment of St. Mary Parish in Painesville with its resident parish priest. From that era of rural wilderness and missionary priests until today, change in these three counties and change in the Catholic Church has been remarkable. Through these past 150 years, St. Mary's has remained a presence and center for the life of the Catholic Church.

In my short time as Pastor, I am awed by the history of the people who are counted as part of the great legacy of this parish. From the lives of the early settlers of this part of Northeastern Ohio to the families who have recently placed their names in our parish roster, the presence of Christ is seen in their faith and devotion. Together we have reason to celebrate this milestone of 150 years because of this continuum of faith.

Today as we look back on the legacy of 150 years, we give thanks to all the lives of the Catholic people who sacrificed so much for their faith and for their parish. We also look forward to a future full of hope for ourselves and our parish. We, who live in a new millennium, hope to continue the heritage of the past and make Christ present through our lives joined together through St. Mary Parish.

To all of our parish, past and present, I pray in the words of St. Paul, the greatest missionary, from his letter to the Philippians:

I give thanks to my God each time I remember you. Always, in every prayer of mine for all of you, I make my prayer with joy, so full a part you have taken in the work of the Gospel from the day it first reached you till now. Of this I am certain, that He who began the good work in you will bring it to completion, ready for the day when Jesus Christ comes... May you reap through Jesus Christ the full harvest of your goodness to God's glory and praise. (Phil. 1, 3-11) AMEN.

My most sincere congratulations and prayers for St. Mary Parish during this anniversary year.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "R. Stephen Vellenga".

Rev. R. Stephen Vellenga
Pastor





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St. Mary's Parish



Diocese
of
Cleveland

Cathedral Square

September 2000



Dear Parish Family of Saint Mary,

It is with great joy that I extend my congratulations and best wishes to you on the 150th Anniversary of your parish. This certainly is a memorable occasion and wonderful cause for celebration.

For 150 years this local church has seen and heard, experienced and lived God's amazing grace. Here saint and sinner have found comfort and solace; have found courage and even challenge. From womb to tomb, this church has been involved in the care of its people and those beyond your parish walls and boundaries – in sacraments, in education, in social outreach, in counseling, in laughter and in tears.

Saint Mary Church's 150 years is a success story for it reveals what miracles of grace are possible if a people opens itself in love to God and God's images. God has dwelt not only in the architecture – but in your lives. For that, we have reason to give thanks and I thank you for being open to the presence of God in your lives.

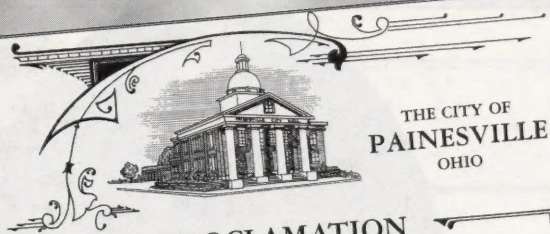
Much remains to be done, however. There are still many challenges to be faced. In thanksgiving for all the blessings of the past 150 years, let us rededicate ourselves to the future. It was faith that brought you to this day. It will be faith that will carry you forward.

It is my prayer that God bless you for all the good you have accomplished as a parish. May Saint Mary's continue to be a center where this parish family serves God – and countless people – now and in generations to come.

With my personal blessing, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla
Bishop of Cleveland



PROCLAMATION

COMMEMORATING
THE
150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF
ST. MARY PARISH

WHEREAS, a small number of nineteenth century Irish Catholic immigrants settled in Painesville, finding work in a local iron smelting facility; and

WHEREAS, initially being served by Fathers of the Cleveland St. Mary on the Flat Parish, who traveled by boat to celebrate Mass with these early settlers, Bishop Amadeus Rappe established St. Mary Parish, in September 1850, to answer the need for a permanent Catholic presence in Painesville; and

WHEREAS, St. Mary Parish continued to grow, welcoming Italian, Hungarian and Mexican Catholic immigrants, who came to Lake County to work in the area's expanding agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, as each group assimilated into the Painesville community, the Church represented for them an anchor and a consolation, thus establishing the missionary theme embraced by the St. Mary Parish; and

WHEREAS, St. Mary School, established by the Parish in 1862, providing the choice of a parochial school environment for the academic, as well as spiritual, education of our youth; thus adding to the quality of living and raising a family in the Painesville community; and

WHEREAS, over the past 150 years of its existence, St. Mary Parish has met and overcome the challenges of a multi-cultural congregation, embracing people from varied professions and economic strata, while becoming a respected and integral presence in this community, ministering to both the spiritual and corporal needs of its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE WE, Abby DeLaMotte, President of Council, and Rita C. McMahon, City Manager of the City of Painesville, Ohio, on behalf of City Council, the Administration and City Manager of the City of Painesville, hereby congratulate the parishioners and clergy of St. Mary Parish, now citizens of Painesville, hereby congratulate the parishioners and clergy of St. Mary Parish, now citizens of Painesville, on the occasion of their One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto subscribed our names and caused the Seal of the City of Painesville, Ohio to be affixed, this Twenty-Fifth Day of September, in the Year Two Thousand.

Abby DeLaMotte
ABBY DELAMOTTE
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



RITA C. MCMAHON
CITY MANAGER

Resolution

BY

SENATOR GARDNER

Honoring St. Mary Church
on its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary.

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the 123rd General Assembly of Ohio are pleased to extend special recognition to St. Mary Church on the memorable occasion of its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary;

WHEREAS, Since its inception in 1850, St. Mary Church has offered its members the pathway to a more meaningful life by illuminating and demonstrating the precepts on which Christianity was founded. The edifice during weekly worship, but also extends beyond those sacred walls daily to touch the lives of everyone encountered by these devoted disciples of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Under the capable leadership of its clergy over the years, St. Mary Church has experienced continual growth and has provided a source of moral guidance and spiritual motivation for each member of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, An occasion such as this is a special milestone which represents dedication, commitment, and enduring faith. For one hundred fifty years, the members of St. Mary Church have kept their faith alive in the community, and on this special anniversary, the members of the congregation have accepted the challenge of carrying their beliefs into the future; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 123rd General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, congratulate St. Mary Church on the hallowed occasion of its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary and extend best wishes for the future; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a duly authenticated copy of this Resolution to St. Mary Church.



I, Matthew T. Schuler, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution No. 3854, adopted by the Ohio Senate, October 17, 2000.

Matthew T. Schuler
Matthew T. Schuler,
Clerk of the Senate

Richard H. Finan
Senator Richard H. Finan
President of the Ohio Senate

Robert A. Gardner
Senator Robert A. Gardner



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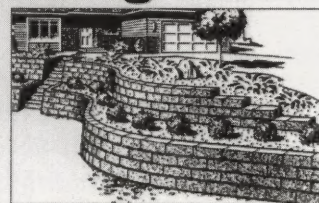
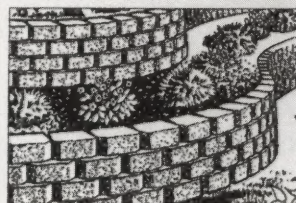
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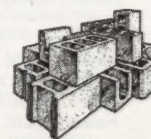
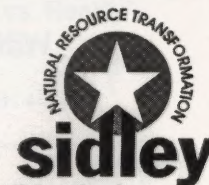
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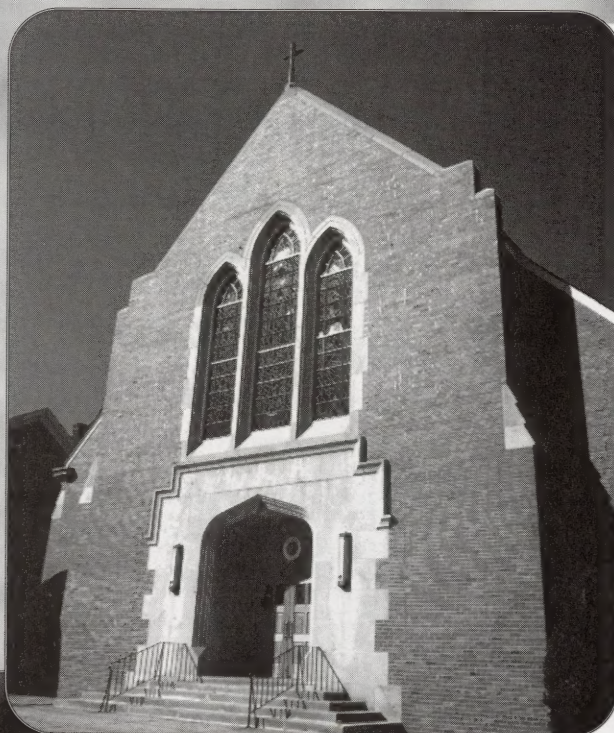
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A Dynamic Parish

From its earliest days as the only Catholic church serving Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties, until today, St. Mary Parish has served as a beacon of faith for the surrounding community for 150 years. The following words spoken by former associate pastor Fr. Richard Antall in 1996 sum up the spirit of the parish:



"The history of any parish community is a facet of the history of the whole Church. Saint Mary Parish, however, has been blessed to reflect in her history the mission element of the universal Church, the American history of immigration and assimilation around a parish community, and the challenges of a multicultural congregation, embracing people from varied professions and economic strata. It has been a dynamic history, directing us to think of present challenges and future achievements."



From Mission To Missionaries

"I am out tomorrow to visit Painesville."

This quote is attributed to Fr. Patrick O'Dwyer, resident pastor of St. Mary on the Flats, in 1837. This simple phrase is significant because it records the first reported journey of a Catholic priest to Painesville.

It is not known how often Fr. O'Dwyer visited Painesville after that. However, his successor, Fr. Peter McLaughlin, pastor of St. Mary on the Flats from 1843 to 1846, made Painesville a mission of the Cleveland parish. He celebrated Mass three or four times a year in private homes for six or seven families, who he described as "sterling Catholics."

Fr. McLaughlin came from Cleveland by boat. There is a citation stating that if he

Mass was celebrated in an old, frame carpenter shop on the property that was converted into a makeshift church.

had come by horseback, "every blood vessel in his body would have been broken."

Fr. McLaughlin is best remembered throughout the diocese as the priest who purchased the property on which St. John's Cathedral now stands.

He resigned from St. Mary on the Flats Parish in 1846, a year before the diocese of Cleveland was formed.



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A Parish is Formed

After Fr. McLaughlin's resignation, his missionary work was continued by other priests, who visited the few Catholic families in Painesville as well as those in surrounding areas. With so much territory to cover, visits to Painesville continued to be few and far between. These missionary priests included Fr. Louis DeGoesbriand, later Bishop of Burlington, Vermont; Fr. Maurice Howard; and Fr. James Monahan.

Parish Memories

On Monday evening the American flag was raised on the Catholic Church in this village. Two Catholic priests were present and spoke, and Hon. Wm. L. Perkins and Judge Hitchcock were also present and made short and appropriate speeches.

- Painesville Telegraph, April 23, 1861

PREACHERS.

We learn that the Universalist minister who has heretofore preached occasionally in this village, has become a permanent resident, and will hold forth every Sunday.— His congregation are making some efforts to have a meeting house built.

A Catholic priest has also become a resident of this place. We have a letter from him which contains his autograph, but for the life of us we cannot decipher it.

The article above appeared in the Painesville Telegraph on November 13, 1850.

Fr. Howard, who celebrated Mass in Painesville once a month, wrote that there were 11 Catholic families, "all sober, temperate people — regular communicants."

After being served for 13 years as a mission of the Cleveland parish, the Catholics

of Painesville and the surrounding area were given a parish of their own. With the building of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroads, and the close proximity to the port of Fairport, the number of Catholic families in the area had grown significantly. Bishop Amadeus Rappe, the first bishop of the diocese of Cleveland, formed the parish in

September 1850 and placed it under the patronage of Mary's Assumption.

The new parish of St. Mary included the territory of Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties (Ashtabula County is now part of the diocese of Youngstown).

Congratulations to St. Mary's of Painesville on your 150th Anniversary



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A Man of Detail

The following is excerpted from "The Pastorate of Reverend Charles Coquerelle,"

St. Mary's Parish: A Historical Sketch, written by Msgr. William J. Gallena in 1931:

The contents of the residence found by Father Coquerelle is interesting. It is all the more interesting because he was a man of detail and very minute in his records. He tells us that his furniture consisted of three bureaus, one book case, four tables, two wash stands, six chairs, two bedsteads, one stove with shovel and tongs, and garden implements. He makes no mention – and he was scrupulous – about carpets, curtains, dishes and other accessories. The house evidently had only bare necessities and perhaps with reason. Father Peudeprat was unavoidably absent a good deal of the time taking care of his vast parish, so that his home in Painesville more than likely must have been just his general and principal stopping place. Besides this he had to contend with the poverty of the times.

Father Coquerelle found his church just the old made over place that Father Peudeprat had purchased and to which he had given the semblance of a Church. He tells us what he found in the Church in 1852. There was one stove, one green vestment, one white vestment, one alb, one amice, two purificators, five finger towels, one chalice and one ciborium. It was indeed a poorly furnished place of Catholic worship without even the necessary vestments.

With this list of furnishings, and mindful of the traditions handed down by the aged who have passed away during this last fifteen years it does not need much imagination to reconstruct in thought the original St. Mary's. Picture to yourself a frame building about 30 x 35 feet in size, seating probably 150 people. At one end is the temporary altar, the humble shrine of the living God in those primitive days. There was likely no altar railing. The pews were probably just benches. From the ceiling were hanging the smoky oil lamps or perhaps they were bracketed to the wall. There were no stations of the cross, no side altars, no statues, no choir loft nor organ. In one corner undoubtedly room was left for "ye old time stove," the sole means of comfort against the wintry blasts. On the altar there would be two candlesticks and a crucifix, and likely there also was the ruby lamp

keeping its silent watch over the Prisoner of love. If the interior finish of St. Mary's was in accordance with the customary building of those days, it was of wood entirely, in place of plaster and wood trim. Perhaps the wood had received a single coat of stain or paint. What a church Father Coquerelle must have had. It was the home of poverty as regards a Church and yet it was the home of the Prince of poverty. There was no cheerfulness in that Church save the tabernacle, but who knows but the prayers offered in that humble place of worship were more fervent than those sent up to heaven amid the splendors of a rich basilica? And who knows again in those days of hardships for our ancestors in the faith, but that the abundance of God's grace was more fully poured out upon them? We will not comment further on the picture of old St. Mary's. It was constructed and equipped along the lines of the average church of its day. What a difference between it and the average parish church of this day.



French missionary Fr. Charles Coquerelle, appointed pastor in 1852, was regarded by many as the "second founder" of St. Mary Parish.



The sturdy, frame schoolhouse was built in 1863.

Communicants no longer had to wait for the visits of a mission priest or make the long journey to Cleveland for Mass.

The first parishioners were poor Irish immigrants. The census of 1850 lists them as laborers and farmers, placing the value of their land at \$300.

Fr. Peter Peudeprat, a missionary born in Clermont, France, was named pastor of the fledgling parish.

He purchased land for the new parish on South State Street. Mass was celebrated in an old, frame carpenter shop on the property that was converted into a makeshift church.

Fr. Peudeprat resigned from St. Mary in 1852 and left for the missions in the southwestern states. He contracted cholera in St. Louis, Missouri, and died en route.

Fr. Charles Coquerelle became pastor in September 1852. Born in Etaples, France, Fr. Coquerelle had been a mission priest in the Sandusky area. His appointment as pastor was effective September 10, and he wasted no time in carrying out his pastoral duties. Within a week he had married a couple and performed a baptism. His commitment to the parish was demonstrated throughout his tenure, and was summed up 80 years later in Msgr. William J. Gallena's history of the parish: "So great has been his influence on the growth and development of this parish that he may well be regarded as its second founder."

A New Church

It quickly became clear that the parish would outgrow the carpenter-shop-turned-church, with its capacity of 150. With no room to expand on that site, Fr. Coquerelle began collecting funds to purchase new land at least as early as 1853. The old property was transferred to the bishop to be sold. The proceeds of the sale, along with donations of parishioners, were used to purchase land from Lemuel Storrs on June 15, 1856, for \$1,200. This lot is where the church, rectory and school now are located.

Excavation began for the construction of a church in May 1856. Not wanting to drive the parish into debt, Fr. Coquerelle maintained a slow schedule for the building process, and the church was not completed until 1867. However, construction had pro-

In all, five teaching orders of Sisters, as well as lay teachers, have staffed the school.

gressed far enough by 1861 that Mass could be held within the building for the more than 240 families that now comprised the parish.

About this time, Fr. Coquerelle began plans for a parish school and sent for Sisters from the Community of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from Monroe, Michigan. The three Sisters lived in a house on the pastor's personal property, which was willed to the parish at his death. This house remained in use as a convent until 1919, when Msgr. Gallena had it torn down.

St. Mary's School opened in 1862. With no school building, boys were taught in the church basement, and girls received their instruction in the convent.

MEETINGS of a religious nature have been held for the past week at the Catholic Church in this village, and have been attended by members of the Church, as well as "outsiders," in great numbers. Three Rev. Fathers (all strangers) have had charge of the meetings, officiating in turn during the day and evening. "The Mission" closed on Tuesday night. Whatever may be said about the peculiar tenets and views of this Church, the sincerity and devotedness of the great mass of the communicants, we think, cannot be questioned.

From the Painesville Telegraph, October 16, 1862.

Of INTERJECTIONS.

An *Interjection* is a word which expresses some emotion of the speaker; as, *Oh*, what a sight is here! *Well done!*

A LIST OF INTERJECTIONS.

Adieu! ah! alas! alack! away! aha! begone! hark! ho! ha! he! hail! halloo! hum! hush! huzza! hist! hey-day! lo! O! Ostrange! O brave! pshaw! see! well-a-day, &c.

CORRECT THE FOLLOWING ERRORS.

I saw a boy which is blind.*	We was not there.†
I saw a flock of geese.	He loves him.
This is the horse who was lost.	He love me.
This is the hat whom I wear.	Thou have been busy.
John is here; she is a good boy.	He dare not speak.
The hen lays his eggs.	She need not do it.
John is here; he reads well.	Was you there?
I saw two mouses.	You was not there.
The dog follows her master.	We was sorry for it.
This two horses eat hay.	Thou might not go.
John met three mans.	He dost not learn.
We saw two child.	Thou may do it.
He has but one teeth.	If I does that.
The well is ten foot deep.	You was never there.
Look at the oxen.	The book were lost.
This horse will let me ride on her.	Thou will better stop.
I can stay this two hours.	The horses was sold.
I have two pen-knives.	The boys was reading.

ON PARSING.

HAVING the exercises on Parsing* and Syntax in one volume with the Grammar, is a convenience so exceedingly great, that it must be obvious. The following set of exercises on Parsing are arranged on a plan new and important.

All the most material points, and those that are apt to puzzle the pupil, have been selected, and made the subject of a whole page of exercises, and where very important, of two. By this means, the same point must come so often under his eye, and be so often repeated, that it cannot fail to make a strong impression on his mind; and even should he forget it, it will be easy to refresh his memory by turning to it again.

To give full scope to the pupil's discriminating powers, the exercises contain all the parts of speech, promiscuously arranged, to be used thus:—

1. After the pupil has got the definition of a noun, exercise him in going over any part of the exercises in parsing, and pointing out the nouns only. This will oblige him to exercise his powers of discrimination, in distinguishing the nouns from the other words.
2. After getting the definition of an adjective, exercise him in selecting all the adjectives from the other words, and telling why they are adjectives.
3. After getting all the pronouns very accurately by heart, let him point out them, in addition to the nouns and adjectives.
4. Then the verb, without telling what sort, or what number, or person, or tense, for several weeks, or longer, till he can distinguish it with great readiness.
5. Then the definition of an adverb, after which exercise



GALLINACEOUS, belongs to the Gallinaceous or poultry order. It is the largest bird that is a native of Europe. They are sometimes from 6 to 7 feet from wing to wing, and weigh from 20 to 30 lbs. They are valued for their quills and flesh, which is very delicate.



BUTTERFLY, a beautiful insect, so called because it first makes its appearance in the season of butter. This insect is the last stage of existence of a caterpillar, which is produced from an egg. The caterpillar after living a short time, wraps itself up in a case: it remains a few days in this, which is called a chrysalis, and then comes out a winged insect.

(Fig. use.) Among the ancients, the butterfly was an emblem of immortality.



BUTTRESS, a prop. A wall built to support another wall, and standing out. Any prop or support.



BUZZARD, a species of falcon or hawk, a rapacious but sluggish bird. It feeds upon small animals and birds, and is sometimes called the hen hawk. It is found in North America.



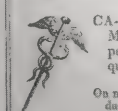
CAB, a diminutive of the French word cabriolet. A light carriage, with two wheels, drawn by one horse.
CAB, a Hebrew measure, about three pints.



CAB-BAGE, the name of an esculent plant that forms its leaves into a head-like shape. There are several species of it, as savoy, cauliflower, &c.
CAB-BAGE-TREE, a species of palm very common in the Caribbean islands, where the tree grows to a prodigious height.



CAB-IN, a small rudely-constructed habitation, consisting of one story, covered by a roof, and made of various materials.
CAB-IN, a small chamber in a ship.



CA-DU'-CE-US, a name for the sceptre of Mercury. A wand, entwined by two serpents, borne by Mercury as an emblem of quality and office.

(Fig. use.)

On medals, the caduceus is a symbol of good conduct, peace, and prosperity. The rod represents power, the serpent wisdom, and the two wings diligence and activity.

CA-DU'-CE-AN, belonging to Mercury's wand.

This grammar book and dictionary, published in the 1860s, were among the early textbooks used by students at St. Mary's School.



Ground was broken for the school-house in November 1862, and the sturdy, frame building was completed in time for the opening of the 1863-64 school year. At that time, only two

classrooms were open on the first floor.

Two upstairs rooms were not completed until 1865. A small triangular lot was purchased in December 1863 for use as a playground. With this purchase, the property of the parish now extended from Erie Street to State Street.

After 17 years of devotion to the parish, Fr. Coquerelle resigned in August 1869 because of ill health and returned to France, where he passed away in 1880.



The Ledger displayed top-left lists all the Catholics in Painesville and the surrounding area at the time of the formation of St. Mary's Parish. It is among the archival records maintained by the parish.

(Left) Fr. John Tracy, appointed pastor in 1869, worked hard to make the parish debt-free by the time he left in 1887.

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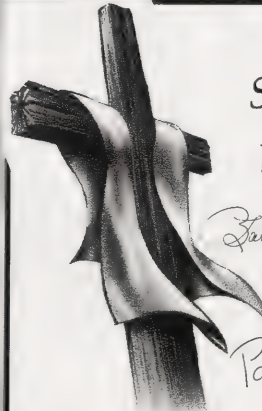
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St. Mary's third pastor, Fr. John Tracy, was appointed in October 1869. He had served for six years as pastor of St. Joseph in Ashtabula, where he was appointed only a month after his ordination. Born in Enniskillen, Ireland (now Northern Ireland), Fr. Tracy faced some tension from his new parishioners, most of whom were from Co. Mayo, Ireland. He eventually won over his doubters as he continued the work begun by Fr. Coquerelle.

As pastor in the Ashtabula parish, Fr. Tracy had taken up a subscription for the building of a church in Madison. Perhaps because of this tie, Bishop Rappe made Madison a mission of St. Mary in 1869.

That year the Sisters of Saint Joseph from Erie, Pennsylvania, came to Painesville and replaced the Sisters of the Immaculate

Heart of Mary at the school. Mother St. George began a novitiate, operating out of St. Mary until the Motherhouse was built on Rocky River Drive in Cleveland in 1877. Records indicate that the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Cleveland staffed the school from 1872 to 1887.

They were joined by the Sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary from New Bedford, Pennsylvania, in 1878. In all, five teaching orders of Sisters, as well as lay teachers, have staffed the school.

While the school catered predominantly to children in grades one through eight, a two-year, post-eighth-grade Commercial course was offered for youths, and apparently some adults, to prepare them for the workforce. Eventually a night school was added for those older students who couldn't attend day classes.

In May 1873, Bishop Richard Gilmour purchased land for a Catholic cemetery. Bishop Fitzgerald of Little Rock, Arkansas, blessed Saint Mary Cemetery on June 27, 1875. A newspaper article the next day stated, "The Catholics of Painesville have good cause to be pleased with their grave-yard."

Whoa, Nellie!

The following is excerpted from "The Pastorate of Rev. John Tracy," History of St. Mary's Parish, written by Msgr. William J. Callena in 1932:

"An important aid to his traveling was the faithful mare, Nellie, who was not only the recipient of her owner's kindness, but also of the attention of many a school lad who was forced to do penance for his school sins by acting as stable boy."

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The Dedication Cross erected at the time still stands in the circle at the top of the hill.

By the time of the 1883 diocesan census, St. Mary Parish comprised about 200 families: 21 in Mentor, 13 in Madison, and 165 in Painesville. Parishioners worked with Fr. Tracy to pay off the parish debt of \$3,200. By the time Fr. Tracy left in 1887 to assume the position of pastor of Holy Angels Church in Sandusky, the parish was debt-free. He died in Ashtabula on May 8, 1908. His body lies in St. Mary's Cemetery.

A Growing Parish

Another priest from St. Joseph in Ashtabula was named as Fr. Tracy's successor. Fr. Edward Conway joined the parish on August 7, 1887. He was St. Mary's first American-born pastor, hailing from Troy, New York.

As the parish continued to grow, it became necessary to enlarge the church.

The belfry was pulled down along with the side walls. Two towers were built on the facade and the rear wall was widened to accommodate the new side walls. The remodeled church, which could accommodate 425 people, was rededicated on June

Fr. Edward Conway was St. Mary's first American-born pastor, appointed in 1887.



30, 1893, by Msgr. Thorpe from the diocese of Cleveland.

The growth of the parish also meant that Fr. Conway had a larger congregation to serve. In January 1905, welcome aid arrived as Fr. John O'Connor joined the parish as its first assistant priest.

Improvements continued to be made to the parish physical plant. The present rectory was built in 1903, and a host of renovations were undertaken in preparation for the 50th anniversary of

the dedication of the church. Associate Fr. Thomas Ring

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By the Pupils of

St. Mary's School,

Assisted by

Miss Catharine Laracy.

At

Gage Hall,

Thursday Evening, June 18, 1896.

7:30 P. M., Standard Time.

Admission, 25 cents.

St. Mary's schoolchildren presented a recital in 1896. The program included a "Dumb-Bell Drill," a short play, music and a pantomime.

wrote in the booklet commemorating this event: "In honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of St. Mary's Church, the parish premises have undergone a complete renovation. The school has been put in first class condition interiorly, many improvements have been made in the Sisters' house, and the church has been entirely renovated. The exterior of the church has been painted and the cross gilded. The interior has been decorated in



The Dedication Cross was erected at St. Mary's Cemetery at the time the cemetery was blessed. This outdoor Mass was celebrated in 1920.



Old St. Mary Church as it appeared in 1937. The edifice was widened in 1893, with towers added on either side.

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NOVEMBER 24, 1907.

The parish celebrated the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the church in 1907.

green, white, buff and gold. The altars have been done over in white and gold, and new altar paraphernalia in gold have been purchased. New stations, a pipe-organ and new furnaces have been installed."

Of course, such extensive improvements cost money and the parish once again began accumulating debt. A debt-paying club was organized by associate Fr. Nicholas Monaghan. Members paid weekly dues of 25 cents to slowly reduce the parish's financial liabilities.

In 1913, Fr. Monaghan left the parish to become pastor of a church in Struthers, Ohio. Once again, Pastor Fr. Conway was the only priest at St. Mary. However, his health had been declining for several years. Bishop John P. Farrelly was concerned that he would be unable to attend to all the pastoral needs of the 225 families in the congregation. Msgr. William J. Gallena (then Fr. Gallena) was appointed Administrator of the parish.

The Canadian-born priest had been ordained only five years before, but was nonetheless well-prepared for the assignment. He had spent those five years studying theology in The Vatican.

Although the church, school and convent had undergone improvements six years before, and the rectory was only a decade old, all were in need of repairs.

Msgr. Gallena's first order of business was increasing the parish's annual income, which at the time was a mere \$7,500. Although the church, school and convent had undergone improvements six years before, and the rectory was only a decade old, all were in need of repairs. The school especially needed updating.

There were 142 students enrolled in grades one through eight in 1913, with two grades to a class. Seventh- and eighth-grade students shared their classroom with

the Commercial class. In his history of the parish, Msgr. Gallena conjured up the following image of the school:

"...who of the older generation does not remember well that old building - the large gas pipes and jets that had no gas, the windows with the unpatented screens, arranged so children could jump out [in case of fire]; the creaky wooden stairs with the bell rope that hung down tempting every boy to give it a pull; the holes in the floors that were many and wide serving more purposes than allowing a free passage of air; the desks with an encyclopedia of names and nick-names..."



The rectory was built in 1903, nearly 50 years after the founding of the parish.



Students from St. Mary School assembled outside the old schoolhouse for a photo in 1911.



Graduates of the Commercial Class in 1914. The Commercial Class was discontinued in 1920.

While a new school was still a few years away, Msgr. Gallena tended to the needs of parish youth with the creation of the Young Ladies Sodality in December 1913, followed by the St. Aloysius Sodality for boys early in 1914. The spiritual and social needs of parish adults were not neglected. The Holy Name Society for men and the Altar and Rosary Society for women were formed at this time. Later came the National Council of Catholic Women, Catholic Youth Organization, scouts, study clubs and mission circles. Men would gather in neighborhood groups at one another's

home to say the 15 decades of the Rosary on their knees every Monday evening.

With so many organizations forming in the parish, the basement of the church was upgraded in January 1914 with new windows, doors and floor to provide a meeting room.

After 27 years of service to the parish, Pastor Fr. Conway left St. Mary in April 1914 and spent his retirement in St. James Parish in Lakewood. He died December 1, 1916, at age 72 and was buried in St. Mary Cemetery. Bishop Farrelly celebrated a Pontifical Mass in remembrance.

Parish Memories

Evergreen Cemetery

When the first Catholics arrived in Painesville there was no Catholic cemetery. Most of these immigrants were buried in Division 6 of Evergreen Cemetery. From the names on the gravestones, you can see that the majority of them came from Ireland. They came here in the 1840s. They helped the beginning of St. Mary Parish.

- Bernie O'Leary,
Parishioner

The St. Mary's quarterly calendar listed contributors to the parish.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

PAINESVILLE, OHIO

FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, 1914

QUARTERLY CALENDAR

Collections

ST. MARY'S CALENDAR

PAINESVILLE, OHIO

1914 FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL 1914

PARISH CLERGY.

Rev. William J. Gallena, Administrator.

PARISH OFFICIALS.

Councilmen—Messrs. William Price, James E. Ferron, Harry T. Nolan, Edward J. Lynch.

REGULATIONS FOR PEWS.

Every one who is self-supporting should try to have his own place in church. If you do not wish to rent a sitting, or find it is impossible to obtain a seat in the pew you would like, you should pay at any rate, the fixed amount into the monthly collections. This is one of the means of supporting our church and school. It ought to be a matter of duty with every one in the parish. Few rent is due on the first day of February, May, August and November. On the Sunday near these dates, the councilmen will receive the pew rent and give a receipt to each one making payment. The members of the parish are requested to be sure and get their receipts. Then there will be little chance for mistakes, and if mistakes are made, they can be easily corrected.

PARISH REGULATIONS.

Masses—Sundays: Low Mass, 8 a. m.; High Mass, 10 a. m.; Sunday school, 2:30 p. m.; Vespers and Benediction, 3 p. m.
Holydays: Low Mass, 5 a. m.; High Mass, 8 a. m.
Week Days: Mass at 7:30.
Baptisms—Baptism is administered every Sunday at 1:45 o'clock.



The first grade class of 1916 poses with Msgr. Gallena.

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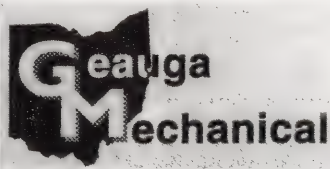
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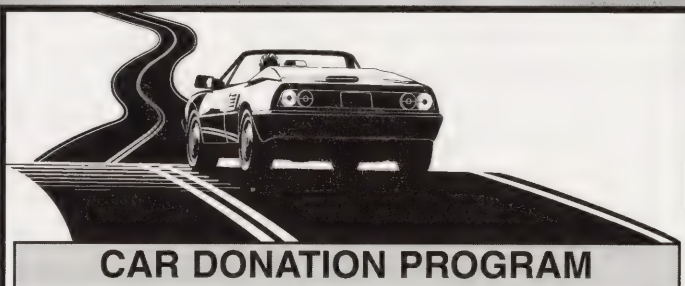
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"Wouldst thou find peace again...? Spread my Rosary, for whomever propagates devotion to the Rosary shall never perish."

These were the words the Blessed Mother whispered to Bartolo Longo one October day in 1872.

Don Bartolo Longo, a wealthy Italian lawyer, had led a life of sin and materialism. In his early thirties, Bartolo longed for an end to his bitter struggle with Satan. In his desperate search for peace and truth, he turned to the Virgin Mary. Upon hearing her words, he knelt in prayer and vowed: "If thy promise is certain, then I am saved, for I shall not leave this Valley ere I have spread thy Rosary."

Along with his wife, Countess Marianna DeFusco, Bartolo began to preach devotion to the Blessed Mother, distributing rosary beads among the poor in the desolate Valley of Pompeii. He also placed an oil painting of Our Lady in a tiny chapel and there began encouraging the custom of saying the Rosary in public. Eventually enough money was raised to build the Sanctuary in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary. On May 8, 1876, the cornerstone was laid. On May 8, 1887, the altar was dedicated, and on May 8, 1891, the Sanctuary was consecrated.

Each year thousands of pilgrims come to Pompeii on the Vigilla Santa, the Holy Eve. From midnight until noon, Masses are said continually at the 10 altars. Together all recite the Rosary at midday.

Our Lady directed many works of charity through Bartolo, who built an orphanage for girls, and an asylum for the sons of convicts. Many poor and orphaned children received an education at the School of Arts and Trades and at the School of Typography which issues the magazines *Il Rosario e La Nuova Pompeii* and *Valle di Pompeii*.

The devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary spread quickly throughout many nations of the world. Many are the miracles attributed to the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary.



Sr. Lucia with schoolchildren in Pompeii, Italy. Sr. Lucia was the sister of Giacomo Palumbo, co-founder of the Our Lady of the Rosary Pompeii Society at St. Mary.

In 1927, a small committee, headed by Giacomo Palumbo, began collecting money in Painesville to be sent to the Orphanage in honor of the May 8 feast day in Italy. Finally, on March 19, 1932, Giacomo Palumbo, Liberato Bertone, Antonio DeGasperis, Charles Dolce, and Charles Guerra founded the Society of Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii.

The oil painting of Our Lady of the Rosary was sent from Pompeii by Giacomo's sister, Sister Lucia, in 1929. The painting was restored in 1968 by John Vitale Jr. of Painesville.

The Society meets the second Monday of the month from September through June. Each May the Society commemorates the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary by attending Mass together. Members also recite the Rosary at funeral services for its deceased members.

Among the projects of the Society are a collection for the benefit of the Orphanage, a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Euclid, and a food drive for the parish needy.

Today, the Society has 40 members at St. Mary Parish.



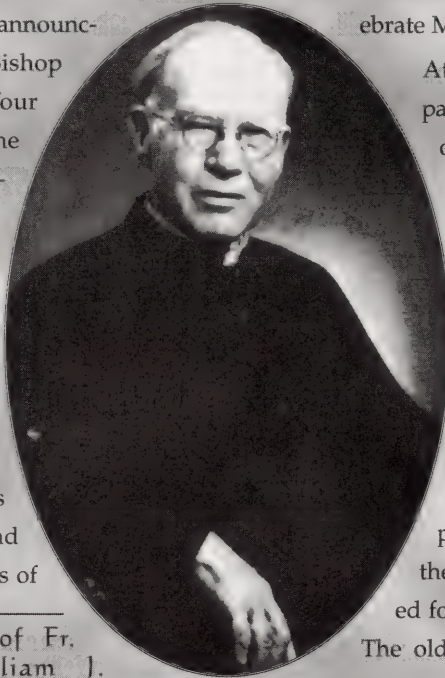
Kathy Palumbo Bowers and Samantha Bowers, granddaughter and great-great-granddaughter of Giacomo Palumbo, pose with the oil painting of Our Lady of the Rosary, a gift from Sr. Lucia in 1929.

Winds of Change

With Fr. Conway's retirement, Msgr. Gallena was appointed pastor of St. Mary on June 8, 1914. In his letter announcing the appointment, Bishop Farrelly wrote, "Your Administratorship of the parish has been indeed satisfactory, and I most cordially congratulate you on your success. I assure you that it gives me the greatest pleasure to now appoint you pastor."

The bishop's confidence in Msgr. Gallena's abilities continued as Madison and Geneva were made missions of

With the retirement of Fr. Conway, Msgr. William J. Gallena (then Fr. Gallena) was named pastor in June 1914.



for the Commercial course.

each town twice a month to celebrate Mass.

At St. Mary, the parish grounds were once again expanded on July 6, 1915, when an 82' x 250' lot on North State Street was purchased. A barn on the lot was used to store unused desks and other supplies. A house on the land was renovated for use as a convent.

The old convent, in turn, was converted into classrooms

By 1916 the parish had drastically reduced its debt and could begin thinking about a new school. Enrollment had increased and the old school was becoming even more cramped. A fund-raising campaign began in May. Under diocesan policies, the parish had to raise 50 percent of the cost of building before construction

Parish Memories

The year was 1918, I was seven years old. My sister Anne was nine years old and my brother Edward was four years old. My uncle, William O'Leary, was in France, a soldier in the war, the First World War. My uncle, Ralph O'Leary, died of the flu. His funeral was held outside in the school yard. They didn't have Mass inside because the flu was so contagious. Very few people attended. During that time no Sunday Masses were held in the church.

- Margaret Cotter, Parishioner

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could begin. In less than a week, \$20,715 had been subscribed. Msgr. Gallena noted proudly that 87 percent of these pledges were paid within two years.

To make room for the proposed school building, the convent was moved in June 1917. After the move, six rooms were added to the main part of the house.

Twice during this decade, the parish was affected by major health scares. In 1916, an epidemic of Infantile Paralysis was so severe that health officials closed all public-meeting places in Painesville. No Mass was held on August 6, August 13 or on the feast of the Assumption. Later, in October 1918, the community was struck with an epidemic of influenza. The church closed for Mass from October 13 through November 3 and the school was closed for more than a month. During this time, Mass was held outside, with an altar erected in the pastor's garage and the congregation gathered in the schoolyard.

An even more serious trauma confronted the parish and the country as the United States entered World War I in April 1917. Many young men from the parish enlisted in the armed forces. Other parishioners helped the war effort with generous contributions to the Knights of Columbus Fund for Camp Welfare; by buying Liberty Bonds and War Saving certificates; and by collecting reading materials for soldiers. Ladies of the parish knitted items for distribution by the Red Cross. "What person,



(top) The second grade class of 1916; (above) Parish altar servers pose for a picture in 1915; (right) An iron box was placed behind the school cornerstone as a time capsule.

young in 1918, does not remember the drive for old clothes for the Belgian refugees and the poor of the sacked and ruined cities of the afflicted war zone, or the innumerable lectures on food conservation, or the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of sugar, or the gasolineless Sundays when we patriotically refused to run our automobiles?" Msgr. Gallena wrote in 1935.

By 1916 the parish
had drastically
reduced its debt and
could begin thinking
about a new school.

Sixty-two young men of the parish went to war, including associate Fr. H. Leo Collins, who left the parish on September 16, 1918, to serve as an Army Chaplain. Pvt. Thomas P. Lynch was the only parishioner to die on the battlefield.

After the war ended in November 1918, parishioners continued their generosity by contributing to the Victory Loan collection to restore the university at Louvain and to Red Cross campaigns for Europeans left homeless by the war.

The war also had delayed the construction of the new St. Mary's School. Ground was finally broken in August 1919 and the cornerstone was laid in November of that year. An iron box including the names of government officials, the bishop, parish clergy, parish council, a list of subscribers to the building fund, a list of children in school, a parish calendar, and Painesville and Cleveland newspapers was laid with the cornerstone as a time capsule.

Once completed, the new school had four classrooms and a basement in one wing with plans to develop further in the future.



Msgr. Gallena's dog, Jocko, was a familiar sight at the parish. Photos ca. 1917.

Grades three through eight moved into the new facility. Grades one and two stayed in the old school. The Commercial class was discontinued, with the last class graduating on March 16, 1920. The course was no longer needed because the school age had been raised from 15 to 16 and employers were hesitant to hire workers under age 16. In addition, many employers were now looking for workers with a high school education instead of those who had only completed the eighth grade.

Bishop Farrelly visited the parish to bless and dedicate the new school on January 16, 1921. This proved to be his last official public act. He died of pneumonia less than a month later on February 12, 1921.

Parish Memories

Pvt. Thomas P. Lynch, son of Thomas R. and Bridget Lynch, was the first soldier from Painesville to give his life for his country in World War I.

Sixty-two servicemen from St. Mary's parish served during that war and he was the only one who did not return home.

He died in a battle near Soissons, France, on July 18, 1918. He was literally cut in two by machine gun fire while advancing in an infantry column. He was with Co. A, 16th Infantry. Private Lynch was buried in France. His name is on the family monument in section B of St. Mary Cemetery. The Painesville Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post was named in his honor.

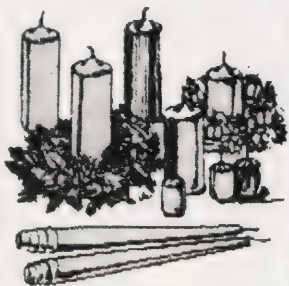
- Bernie O'Leary
Parishioner

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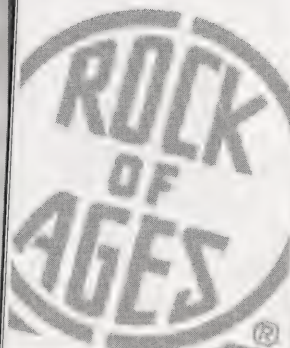
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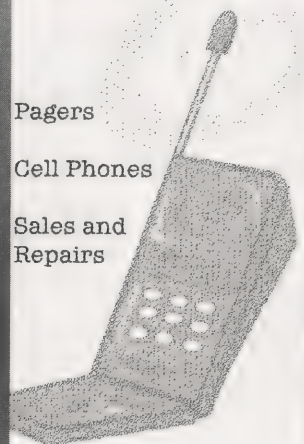


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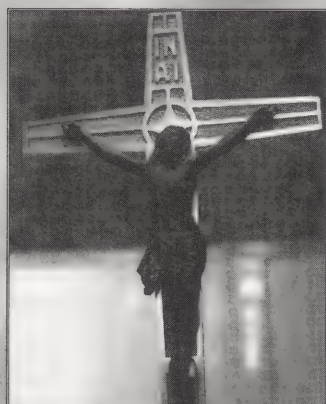
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Msgr. Gallena Shown On Day He Had Audience With Pope



The fifth- and sixth-grade classes of 1915.

Parish Memories

I worked for Father Gallena 50 years ago. I did cooking, laundry, shopping, answering phone and door. At that time (associates) Fathers Minnich and Schumacher were newly ordained. I got paid \$100 a month on monthly collection day with 100 one-dollar bills.

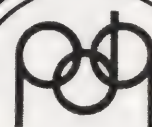
*- Julia Zebehazy,
Parishioner*

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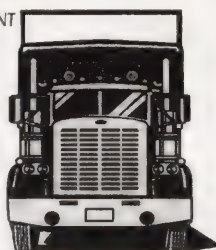
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Effects of Growth

The population in the area continued to increase. By April of 1922, the number of Catholics in Geneva and Madison had grown enough to warrant the establishment of parishes in those towns and they were no longer missions of the Painesville parish. St. Mary associate Fr. Daniel T. Gallagher was named pastor of both newly formed parishes.

Increased population at St. Mary meant that it was now necessary to expand the school. Construction of a second wing with four classrooms began in October 1922, and was completed the following February. First and second graders joined the older students in the building. The old schoolhouse was sold and razed by its new owner. The new school building was completed as planned in 1939 with the building of a gymnasium.

The growth in parish population also meant an increase in the number of families attending Sunday Mass. With seating becoming more limited, the parish ended the practice of pew rent, whereby parishioners could reserve a seat in church each Sunday for a fee. In February 1926, seating became first come, first served. To replace the income lost by abolishing pew rent, the parish began distributing weekly envelopes for offertory donations.



The St. Mary football team of 1935.

While students enjoyed more expanded space in the new school building, the eight Sisters of the parish school continued to live in cramped quarters in the old convent. In June 1927 ground was broken for a new convent, designed to follow the architecture of the school. When the building was completed in December 1927, the old convent was used as the janitor's house. The parish's Isabella Club helped supply furnishings for the Sisters' new home. The convent chapel was blessed January 26, 1928.

Poor boxes were added to the church for the first time in 1932.

Later in 1928, Msgr. Gallena began taking up a subscription from parishioners in the neighborhood of Hale and Lee roads with the intention of funding a new parish there. When the Great Depression hit the following year, plans for St. Joan of Arc parish stalled and were never revived.

In spite of this, St. Mary Parish didn't feel the full effects of the Depression until 1931. Twenty-five percent of the men of the parish were out of work and a large number of families were just scraping by. Poor boxes were added to the church for the first time in 1932. The St. Vincent DePaul Society was formed to help the downtrodden. They supplied milk to needy children, sponsored clothing drives, paid rent and utilities in cases of emergency, and distributed some cash grants.

Msgr. Gallena's schedule became more hectic during the 1930s as he was named Dean of the Painesville Deanery by Bishop Joseph Schrembs in February 1, 1929. The newly formed Deanery included 14 parishes in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties.



The convent was completed in December 1927.



Pew Rent

The following is excerpted from "Pastorate of the Right Reverend William J. Gallena," History of St. Mary's Parish, written by Msgr. Gallena in 1939:

Since the foundation of St. Mary's the big source of parish income has been pew rent. The old account books of the parish as far back as 1852 showed the amount of pew rent collected every three months. It was the system of parish revenue in use almost all over the United States. According to the system everyone earning his own livelihood had a seat in Church, for which he paid a definite amount each year.

There were individual holdings and family holdings. When a person went to Mass, he usually occupied his own pew, and in theory at least, had the right to exclude others from his seat.



The sanctuary as it appeared in 1940.



The Sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary were among five religious orders to serve the parish school.

The pew rent system was a good one for its day. It had its drawbacks however especially in this, that as parishes began to grow, everyone could not have his own pew. The churches were too small.

The result of this was that many did not even attempt to rent sittings although a few sittings might have been obtainable. The number of non-pew renters gradually increased until it could have been said that the majority of the people was paying nothing for the

support of the parish except a small amount on Sundays for the offertory collection. In many places in order to make up for the lost revenue, two collections were taken among those who did not have pews, one was called seat money and the other the offertory.

In order to make everyone feel welcome in church and at the same time to avoid the double collections, the best plan was evidently to make all seats

available to everyone and to do away with the pew rent system entirely.

This was done in our parish in February of this year 1926. The pew holders were asked to vote



Crowds gather for the closing of the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress on May 30, 1941.

as to whether or not they would be willing to give up their pews. The vote was taken. By a large majority it was decided to abandon the pew rent system and substitute the system of weekly envelopes. Accordingly envelopes for every Sunday of the year were sent to every person in the parish with the expectancy that the offering put into these envelopes should be sufficient to pay each ones pew rent and offertory collection at one and the same time. The system has worked well ever since."

A Growing Community

Parish Memories

Outside of my parents, there is no one that has meant more to me over the years than the nuns and priests of my hometown. Fr. Gallena was a true giant among men. I was fortunate to have been a server at many of the masses of John Cardinal Deardon and learned the value of sportsmanship and competition from Father George Olejnyk. In the late sixties President Richard Nixon initiated Sunday morning prayer services in the White House. At the first breakfast he invited my wife and I. I in turn asked Coach Don Shula and his wife Dorothy (Dorothy Bartish from St. Mary's). John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia was the speaker. As we passed through the receiving line we said we were from Painesville, Ohio. The Cardinal replied: "Were you both Doc Gallena's boys?" It was a proud moment when we said: "Yes, your Eminence."

- J. William Stanton,
Member of Congress, 1965-1983

By 1940, the parish had grown to 1,180 families. To accommodate the growing congregation, the church was enlarged. An \$18,000 remodeling project was undertaken during which a 28-foot addition was built with a new sanctuary. The renovated church, which could now seat 540 worshippers, was re-opened with a Solemn Pontifical Mass celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop James A. McFadden.

That same year, two rooms were added to the school. The school was again expanded in 1941 and 1948, bringing the total number

of classrooms to 18. A ninth grade class of 26 students was added in 1950.



Archbishop Edward F. Hoban (center) was celebrant of the 100th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving for the parish in September 1950.

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The old church was razed in June 1955.

Parish Memories

During several summer vacations, after I became an altar boy, Fr. Gallena would walk down to our house, which was next to the gym, and call me to help him say Mass. We were usually playing in and around our house or in the school yard.

The school yard had a lot to offer before the addition of the new classrooms. We could play hard ball, softball, swing and climb the monkey bars. A great source of entertainment for some of the students was trying to stay on top of the open trash dump located and attached to the back of the school.

After the gym was built in 1940, it was used for the Masses as the church was being renovated. One of the occasions it was used for was a farewell party for Fr. Donnellon, our assistant pastor who had joined the army as a chaplain.

What is now the school library used to be the assembly hall. Its huge room was the gathering place for members of Boy Scout Troop 64 and a great place to play capture the flag after the scout meeting.

- Bill Conley,
Parishioner

End of an Era

In 1950 the people of St. Mary remembered the parish's 100th anniversary with a Solemn Pontifical Mass celebrated by Bishop Edward F. Hoban. Priests from throughout the area, as well as ordained sons of the parish, were invited to concelebrate.

Efforts to upgrade the parish physical plant continued into the 1950s with a three-story addition to the rectory. A much larger construction project was undertaken a few years later with the building of a new church.



Construction of the new church continued into 1956.

The last Mass was celebrated in the old church on May 31, 1955, and it was razed a month later. From then on, Mass was held in the school gym. Those humble surroundings were the backdrop for Msgr. Gallena's first Pontifical Mass on November 6. He had been invested with the insignia of rank of Protonotary Apostolic in October.

Once the old church was razed, construction could begin on the new edifice. The cornerstone, a 900-pound block of Vermont marble, was laid on October 23, 1955. As had been done when the school was constructed, a time capsule was placed with the cornerstone. The copper box included a history of the church, a picture of each building on church grounds, a picture of the new church in-progress, a parish

Parish Memories

In the St. Mary graduating class of 1936, there were seven boys named Joseph. Some of them also had the same middle name. The boys were: Joe Chom, Joe Davis, Joe DeFranco, Joe Jenkins, Joe McDonnell, Joe O'Leary and Joe Shula. Five of the Joes have passed away. The two remaining are Joe Davis of Mentor and Joe Jenkins of Scottsdale, Arizona.

- Bernie O'Leary,
Parishioner

calendar, historical data on the area, copies of the *Universe Bulletin*, and Painesville and Cleveland newspapers. A 3000-pound bell was added to belfry in March 1956.

The new church was blessed by Samuel Cardinal Stritch in October 1956. With its seating capacity of more than 800, the building was considerably larger than its predecessor.

Msgr. Gallena was a builder with great foresight. During his pastorate, the present school, as well as two additions to the school, the convent, the present church, an addition to the rectory, and the original classrooms at St. Gabriel parish were built. His plan envisioned another school building on our parish property.



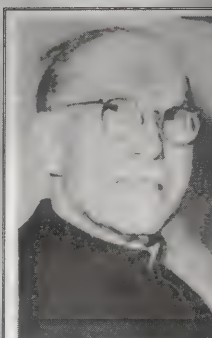
Msgr. Gallena welcomes Samuel Cardinal Stritch for the dedication of the new church.



Bishop John Krol, pictured with Msgr. Gallena (left), consecrated the altars of the new St. Mary Church on October 18, 1956.

Doc, as he was affectionately called, was considered by many as a giant of the diocese, by his brother Romani as the noblest of us all, and by some as the "Bishop of Painesville." He was a tremendous person and influenced many lives. His spirituality radiated. A standing ovation was given to him at the banquet following the installation of Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan as Archbishop of Atlanta, Georgia, in 1962. The Archbishop, a son of the parish, said about Monsignor, "He not only gave me my First Communion, but for some 45 years has given me an example of what a priest should be."

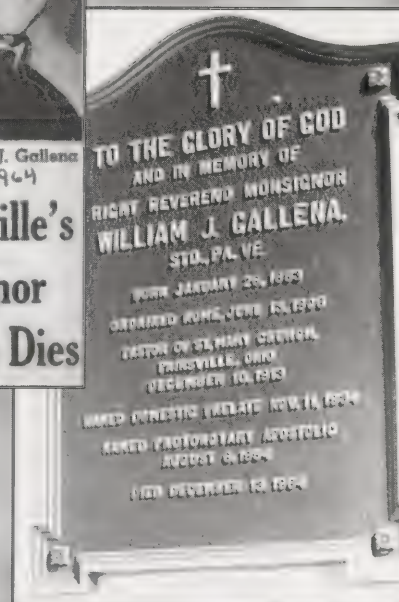
At the time of Msgr. Gallena's death in 1964, an editorial in the local newspaper was entitled: The End of an Era.



Msgr. William J. Gallena
Dec. 13, 1964

Painesville's Monsignor Gallena Dies

A plaque was placed in the church in honor of Msgr. Gallena following his death in 1964.



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Holy Name Society

St. Mary Holy Name Society was founded on April 12, 1914, under the direction of Msgr. William J. Gallena. This Society is a worldwide organization established in 1274 when Pope Gregory X challenged the Dominican Order to focus their preaching on reverencing the Holy Name of Jesus. John of Vercelli, then Master General of the Dominican Order, accepted this challenge and began establishing societies in churches.

Holy Name Sunday is the second Sunday of the month at the 9 a.m. Mass. Holy Name members meet at funeral homes to pray the rosary for deceased members. A yearly Holy Name retreat is held at St. Joseph Christian Life Center. A Blessed John of Vercelli Mass and holy hour is celebrated once a year for his canonization. Holy Name members also participate in various parish and diocesan spiritual activities.

Holy Name Society has two fund raisers yearly – a spaghetti dinner in March and a pancake breakfast in November. Proceeds from these activities have benefited various programs, including:

- St. Mary School SOS programs
- Religious retirement fund
- St. Mary Respect Life
- Lake County Right to Life
- Birthright of Lake County
- Diocesan Catholic Hunger Fund
- Citizens for Community Values

The memorial stone for the unborn, in the Holy Family Garden, was purchased by the Holy Name Society. Members are active in the life of the parish as lectors and eucharistic ministers. Others work in the "Wednesday Morning Crew" and the St. Vincent

DePaul Society. Many belong to the Marian Club and serve in various ways, some as officers. On the first Saturday of each month, Holy Name members cook and serve at St. James' soup kitchen. Each Monday, members join activists from St. Mary Church and the Painesville Church of the Nazarene in peaceful protest for the betterment of the community. Members also participate in Right to Life marches in Lake County and Washington, D.C.



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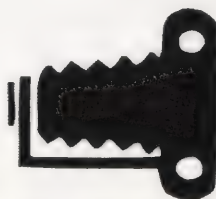
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A New Era

While parishioners mourned the passing of their beloved "Doc," they welcomed Msgr. Joseph M. Misich, who was appointed pastor of St. Mary on June 10, 1965.

The new pastor was responsible for implementing changes of the Second Vatican Council. In 1968 he oversaw the redecoration of the church.

Even with the expansion of St. Mary School in the 1940s, the building became cramped as the school reached its all-time high enrollment in the late '60s and early '70s. To accommodate the needs of the larger student body, two mobile units were purchased and placed behind the gymnasium.



Sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary and lay teachers staffed the school in 1962.

St. Mary's Church Marks 125 Years in Painesville

By KAREN GIAMO
News-Herald Staff Writer

CARDINAL DEARDEN served his first and only parish assignment at the St. Mary's Church in Painesville, Ohio.

The parish of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Painesville, which began in an old frame carpenter shop in 1850, is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

This weekend, parishioners celebrated with a dinner dance, Eucharist and a mass served by Cardinal Dearden, archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Detroit.



REV. HANZO

125th Anniversary

St. Mary's Church
1850-1975



Painesville, Ohio

Although busy attending to the educational needs of its students and the spiritual needs of the congregation, the parish didn't forget about entertainment and social gatherings. One of the highlights was a performance by a well-loved musical group. A personal friend of Maria Von Trapp,

Msgr. Misich was instrumental in bringing the Von Trapp Family Singers to Painesville to

present a concert. It was held in the Lake Theatre, and a reception followed.

Although more than 30 years had passed since he left St. Mary's, parishioners felt a sense of pride when former associate pastor Fr. John Dearden became John Cardinal Dearden in April 1969. He was one of four American cardinals selected that year by Pope Paul VI.

Having reached the mandatory retirement age, Msgr. Misich retired in 1975. His successor was Fr. Robert G. Hanzo, who was appointed pastor on March 14, 1975, from St. Gregory the Great Parish.

That year, the parish commemorated its 125th anniversary with a special Mass celebrated by John Cardinal Dearden, archbishop of Detroit. The Knights of Columbus, dressed in full regalia, escorted the processional. In its 125 years, the parish had grown to nearly 2,000 families. Parishioners formed an active community, participating in a number of spiritual, social, and educational organizations, including Parish Council, the Holy Name Society, Altar and Rosary Guild, a Parents' Organization, Ladies of Charity, and



The church was filled to overflowing for a Mass celebrating the parish's 125th anniversary in 1975.



John Cardinal Dearden (left) is greeted by Pope John Paul II in 1978. Cardinal Dearden served St. Mary Parish from 1934-37.

Legion of Mary, among others. Fr. Hanzo introduced a spiritual program, Christ Renews His Parish, to St. Mary. He directed the women's renewals while the associates conducted the men's renewals. The renewals provided spiritual growth in the parish for a number of years.

With a firm belief in the need for sacramental preparedness, Fr. Hanzo brought pre-Baptism preparation and a PreCana program to St. Mary. He also moved the parish forward technologically, overseeing the move from manual to computerized records.



Pastor Fr. Robert G. Hanzo and assistant Fr. Thomas J. Winkel pose with a statue of the Blessed Mother that has been with the parish since its founding.

The Parish Family Center was built in 1981, the same year Fr. Hanzo (for whom the Center was later named) celebrated his silver jubilee as a priest. Throughout the years, the Center has continued to be a hub of parish life.



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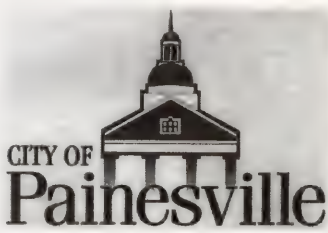





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Parish Memories

Since I left your beloved parish in 1963, I believe that I returned only twice that I can remember. Sadly for Doc Gallena's funeral in '64 and somewhere in the late '60s or early '70s on the invitation of Msgr. Misich to speak to the Holy Name Society, on what subject is anybody's guess.

They say that a priest's first assignment becomes his first love. When I entered the diocese in 1958, Bishop Krol, who was running the diocese for Archbishop Hoban, assigned me to St. Mary's, Msgr. Gallena, pastor. It was one of the happiest five years of my life, to have mingled with the great people of St. Mary's, Painesville. That parish was 60 square miles, filled with the greatest varieties of church experiences that I had ever encountered before or since. And all of those experiences were comforting because of the loving cooperation of the parishioners of your blessed community.

*- Fr. Francis Valentini,
Associate Pastor
1958-1963*

Reaching Out

In 1992 a Mass was celebrated at the request of Hispanic parishioners. Bishop Anthony Pilla, realizing a need for a ministry for them, appointed Fr. James Lynch to head the ministry, and named St. Mary the center in 1993. The ministry serves more than 1,000 mostly Mexican people, who account for one-eighth of the parish's population. A variety of services are offered through the ministry, including an English as a Second Language class, assistance for migrant families, Spanish-language Masses, and a bilingual Mass designed to bring English- and Spanish-speaking parishioners together as a community.

Fr. Lynch left St. Mary in the early '90s to join Maryknolls and returned to the mission field in Peru. Fr. Richard Antall became Director of Hispanic Ministry when he joined the parish in 1994. He had



Fr. Hanzo and Bishop Anthony Pilla before the retiring pastor's farewell Mass.

served four years at St. Francis de Sales parish in Parma before joining a mission team in El Salvador. Fr. Antall initiated health screenings at St. Mary following Sunday evening Spanish Mass. He left the parish in 1998 to return to El Salvador.

For health reasons, Fr. Hanzo resigned as pastor in 1996. As Pastor Emeritus, he has continued to celebrate the Sacraments at St. Mary.

Father Michael Dyrzcz became pastor in 1996, joining the parish from St. Stanislaus in Lorain. During the year he was pastor, renovation work began on the school building with the help of a school parent committee. Repairs were also made to the church roof and the convent, and air conditioning was added to the rectory.

During one Sunday sermon, Fr. Dyrzcz invited retired tradesmen to volunteer their talents to the maintenance of the parish physical plant. The Wednesday Morning Work Crew continues to enhance the church property through their efforts.

Fr. Dyrzcz resigned as pastor in 1997 and was named administrator of St. Barbara Parish in Cleveland.



Members of the parish Hispanic Ministry present the living stations of the cross on Good Friday. The ministry began at St. Mary's in 1992.



Marian Club

In 1983, Fr. Hanzo asked a group of parishioners to organize a club for people over 50 years of age. The first meeting of the group, called the "Marian Club of St. Mary's," was held in July 1983.

Meetings are held on the fourth Sunday of every month after the 12:30 Mass. Meetings include a dinner and a social.

The Marian Club is predominantly a social club for parishioners age 50 and over. Members participate in day trips to dinner, theatres and other entertainment venues, and organize programs and speakers. The group says the rosary at wakes, sends cards to sick members, prays for living and deceased members, and gathers for Mass for deceased members.

Members of the parish Marian Club meet once a month for Mass, dinner and a social.



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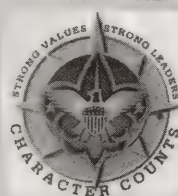
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The Tradition Continues



Deacon Paul Hlabse, Bishop Anthony Pilla and Fr. Steve Vellenga during the opening celebration of the parish's 150th anniversary.

In October 1997, St. Mary Parish welcomed Fr. R. Stephen Vellenga as pastor.

From the beginning, Fr. Vellenga has demonstrated his ability to guide parishioners in their spirituality.

Fr. Vellenga's Theological Studies were at the Pontifical North American College, Rome, Italy. He was awarded the

degree STL (Licentiate in Sacred Theology) by the Pontifical Gregorian University, also in Rome. He was granted a Sabbatical Leave to attend The Institute for Continuing Theological Education at the North American College of Rome from February to May 2000.

Fr. Vellenga is a member of the Diocesan Presbyterial Council and is Presbyterial Convener for the Lake Geauga District. He also serves on the Advisory Council for Catholic Charities Services of Lake and Geauga Counties. In addition to his pastoral duties, Fr. Vellenga has taken his place in the community. He has not fought City Hall; rather, he has fought vigorously beside the city administration on matters affecting the parish.

On two occasions, Fr. Vellenga has enlisted the support of the parish community to control the growing number of liquor



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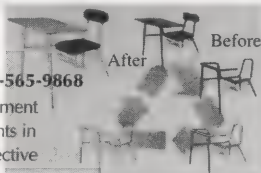
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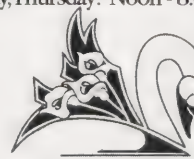
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Fr. Steve Vellenga, pictured here during a trip to Jerusalem in May 2000, was appointed pastor of St. Mary in October 1997.

establishments in the neighborhood: first to deny the transfer of a liquor license to a building across the street from the parish facilities, and second joining with the city of Painesville to deny the renewal of a liquor license to a bar that was known for drug activity in the neighborhood.

Fr. Vellenga has been appointed to the Lake County Public Defenders Commission by the Lake County Commissioners and is a board member of the Lake Geauga United Head Start Program. Officials speak well of his organizational skills and of his hospitality. Following a funeral Mass at which Fr.

Vellenga was celebrant, a visiting attendee commented, "Be nice to him. There aren't many like him."

Continuing Ministry

Among his past assignments, Fr. Vellenga was part of a Diocesan Mission Team in El Salvador. The ability to speak Spanish and an appreciation of Hispanic culture were some of the qualities taken into consideration by the Diocesan Personnel Committee in its search for a pastor for St. Mary. Fr. Vellenga has incorporated Hispanic ministry into the ordinary ministry of the parish. With the ever-growing population of Hispanics in the Painesville area, such ministry could no longer be limited to the responsibilities of one priest. All of the priests assigned to the parish speak Spanish, celebrate the Mass and preach in Spanish, and attend to the daily needs of the Spanish-speaking community. English and citizenship classes are offered, and Spanish-language Alcoholics Anonymous meetings take place twice a week. First Communion preparation is offered to children who do not speak English and therefore cannot attend the regular parish sacramental preparation. More than half of the baptisms performed at the parish are celebrated in Spanish.

The parish community comes together

several times a year to worship in both English and Spanish. Masses held on Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday are bilingual, with readings, music and the homily in a combination of the two languages.

Supportive Community

In celebration of the Diocesan Sesquicentennial in 1997, the parish began planning two special gardens: one in honor of the Blessed Mother, in memory of Msgr. Gallena, and the other a meditation garden in honor of the Holy Family. The gardens were funded through the sale of engraved



Fr. Patrick Henry sings his way out of church following the opening Mass of the parish's 150th Anniversary Year.



Air conditioning, installed in 1998, offers welcome relief during the hot summer months.

The Sisters of the Humility of Mary sent a special remembrance to the parish to commemorate their association with the school:

bricks memorializing parish individuals and families. Ground was broken for the gardens the following spring.

During his pastorate, Fr. Vellenga has overseen many improvements of the physical facilities. Air-conditioning and a state-of-the-art entrance for the handicapped have been added to the church. Upgrading, repairs and replacements have been made to all parish buildings. A major capital improvement campaign was initiated in 1999-2000 to fund the work. Generous parishioners showed their support of the project by pledging nearly \$300,000 during two capital campaigns. In all, more than 800 pledges were made. Fr. Vellenga kicked off the effort by donating the first \$1,000.

When it became apparent that bingo was no longer a profitable venture, the parish ceased that fund-raising activity. Shortly

"The cover drawing (right) is of St. Mary's Church in Painesville, Ohio and the white marble statue of Our Lady of Humility at Villa Maria Community Center in Villa Maria, Pennsylvania. It is meant to symbolize more than a century of close relationships between the people of this parish and the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. For all the blessings in those years...

"WE REJOICE WITH YOU!"

thereafter, the Fr. Hanzo Center became a non-smoking facility. New ceiling tiles were donated and their installation was made possible through the Eagle Scout project of John Goecker. Paint and new tables and chairs were added to complete the renovation. A kitchenette and meeting room were added where a concession area had been.

As in the past, parishioners have continued to be a strong faith community. Groups such as Parish Council, the St. Vincent



DePaul Society and the Holy Name Society support parish efforts through a variety of means. For the past several years, the Bereavement Ministry has reached out to parishioners in their time of loss, by help-

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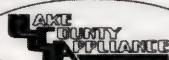
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St. Mary Parish Pastoral Council

Our Mission

In the spirit of Jesus Christ and our Patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mission of the Parish Pastoral Council is:

- * planning and developing the strategic plan for the future of the parish,
- * assisting and supporting commission in the implementation of strategies, and
- * furthering the development of the overall Parish community

The Parish Pastoral Council represents the needs and interests of the entire parish community. It provides a framework in which all parish groups and organizations work together to promote the spiritual growth of the parish and foster the mission of the Church. The parish picnic, volunteer recognition dinner, and Discernment Sunday are some of the programs for which the council

has been responsible. The council is about to embark on developing a strategic plan to help guide the parish in its growth and development over the years to come, keeping our focus on action and ministry based upon the mission of Jesus.



Parish youngsters test their singing talents at the parish picnic. Parish Council has been involved in planning the picnic throughout its history.

ing to plan liturgy, serving as greeters, lectors and Eucharistic ministers at funerals, singing in the funeral choir, sending sympathy cards, preparing food, and planning a special remembrance on All Souls Days.

In the school, the PTO enhances the work of staff through parental involvement,



Bishop Edward Pevec was celebrant for the 150th Anniversary Mass.



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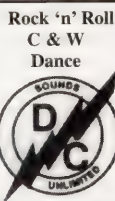
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A pictorial history of the parish was on display during the 150th Anniversary Dinner.

Our Sesquicentennial

Eighteen months prior to the kick-off of the parish's 150th Anniversary Celebration, St. Mary was recognized by the Lake Geauga District as the Mother Parish of the other parishes in Lake and Geauga counties. In September 1998, Bishop Edward Pevec celebrated a Mass to which representatives from the 21 parishes were invited to participate in an opening procession carrying banners from their respective churches. Bishop Anthony Pilla concluded the District celebration and kicked off the St. Mary Parish celebration on Pentecost Sunday, June 11, 2000.

A variety of activities were planned throughout the year to commemorate the jubilee, including events for students and

alumni of the school, family fare, volunteer recognition, and spiritual development.

Since January 2000, parishioners have had easy access to updated parish information through the World Wide Web.

Lastly, the parish web site, <http://www.stmarypv1.org>, includes announcements, Mass schedule, calendar of events, information on parish organizations such as PTO and Parish Council, and links to St. Mary School web site and variety of Catholic sites.



Good food and fun highlighted the 150th Anniversary Dinner.



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Pastors/Associate Pastors/Deacons

Pastors:

Rev. Peter Peudeprat.....	1850-1852
Rev. Charles M. Coquerelle.....	1852-1869
Rev. John Tracy.....	1869-1887
Rev. Edward J. Conway.....	1887-1914
Rt. Rev. Monsignor William J. Gallena.....	1914-1964
Monsignor Joseph M. Misich.....	1965-1975
Rev. Robert G. Hanzo.....	1975-1996
Rev. Michael Dyrz.....	1996-1997
Rev. R. Stephen Vellenga.....	1997- Present

Associate Pastors:

Rev. Joseph A. O'Connor.....	1905	Rev. Thomas F. Martin.....	1961-1965
Rev. James Higgenbotham.....	1905-1907	Rev. Donald J. Peters.....	1962-1963
Rev. Thomas Ring.....	1907-1908	Rev. John G. Crawford.....	1963-1971
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Nicholas Monaghan.....	1908-1913	Rev. Chester C. Cudnik.....	1963-1969
Rev. H. Leo Collins.....	1915-1918	Rev. Anthony F. Alexander.....	1965-1968
Most Rev. Michael J. Ready.....	1918-1919	Rev. Bernard Brady.....	1966
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Daniel Gallagher.....	1919-1922	Rev. John Walsh.....	1968
Rev. John F. Madigan.....	1922-1926	Rev. Eugene E. Gonsowski.....	1969-1974
Rev. Phillip O'Brien.....	1926-1934	Rev. Robert E. Friedel.....	1969-1970
Rev. John Lees.....	1930-1933	Rev. Stephen J. Maglich.....	1970-1971
Rev. Joseph Moriarty.....	1934	Rev. Thomas J. Winkel.....	1971-1977
John Cardinal Dearden.....	1934-1937	Rev. Leo H. Wenneman.....	1974
Rev. George Olejnyik.....	1934-1944	Rev. Paul J. Wysocki.....	1974-1975
Rev. George Donnellon.....	1937-1941	Rev. Stephen J. Dohner.....	1976-1980
Rev. John C. Minnich.....	1942-1948	Rev. George F. Walter.....	1977-1983
Very Rev. Msgr. Leo S. Schumacher.....	1944-1946	Rev. Ralph Zarnick.....	1980-1986
Rev. Edward M. Tulley.....	1946-1950	Rev. Edward M. Schwet.....	1983-1984
Rev. Miles T. White.....	1948-1950	Rev. Joseph Cappelletti.....	1984-1994
Rev. Victor Ortino.....	1950-1951	Rev. John M. Kumse.....	1986-1987
Rev. Thomas G. McMahon.....	1950-1956	Rev. Dennis M. McNeil.....	1987-1991
Rev. T. Kirwin Obendorfer.....	1951-1957	Rev. Timothy J. Plavac.....	1991-1993
Rev. Francis Sidley.....	1955-1962	Rev. James M. Lynch.....	1993-1994
Rev. Gerald E. Payne.....	1956-1961	Rev. Joseph M. Mecir.....	1994-1998
Rev. Anthony C. Viton.....	1957-1958	Rev. Richard Antall.....	1994-1998
Rev. Francis M. Valentini.....	1958-1963	Rev. John T. Ostrowski.....	1998-Present
Rev. Edward J. Gallagher.....	1961	Rev. Patrick Henry.....	1998-Present

Deacons:

Rev. Mr. Norman Davis.....	1984
Rev. Mr. Paul Hlabse.....	1999-Present

'A Complete Parish Facility'

The parish of St. Mary is not about bricks and mortar, land acquisition or statistics. It is about people – the nine pastors and 52 associates who have ministered or are ministering in the parish, and the thousands who have been served these many, many years. It began with poor immigrants who took pride in their parish, gave generously, and shared with each group of European immigrants, and most recently, with Hispanics.

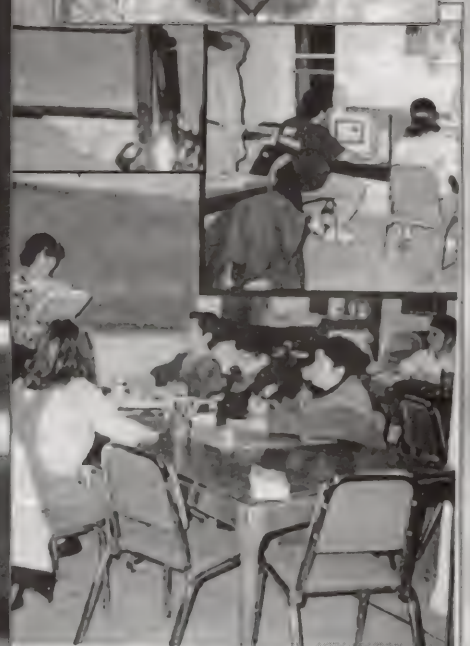
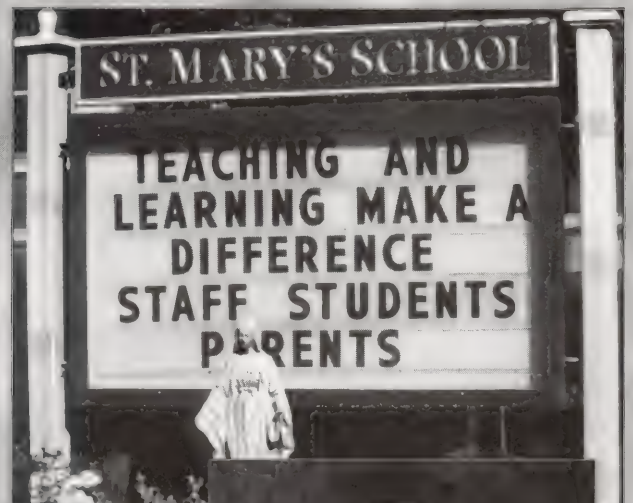
Many past and present parishioners have received most of their Sacraments at St. Mary and were educated in our school. They have distinguished themselves and displayed in their lives the values learned at St. Mary. Among them are an Archbishop; a United States Congressman; a leader in professional athletics; members of the medical, educational and legal professions; the trades and other positions.

The mission aspect of our parish cannot be overlooked. St. Mary began as a mission, served by missionaries. In turn, St. Mary assisted neighboring parishes into the 1900s. St. Mary parish has been represented well in the Diocesan Mission in El Salvador. Our current pastor, Fr. R. Stephen Vellenga, served there, as did two former associates, Fr. James Lynch and Fr. Richard C. Antall. Msgr. Thomas B. Sebian, a son of the parish, was a member of the original team in El Salvador.

A feature regarding Saint Mary appeared in the *Painesville Telegraph* on July 15, 1922. The article described St. Mary as a "complete parish facility," and continued that this completeness came not

from its buildings, but from its "good will and spirit... to uphold the cross, instill love of country, foster education, teach and defend the laws of God and good citizenship, and thus be a real asset to the city of Painesville."

This statement could be made today as we celebrate our 150th Jubilee.



Fr. Vellenga conducts a citizenship class at St. Mary's Parish. More than 100 local residents attended the class in



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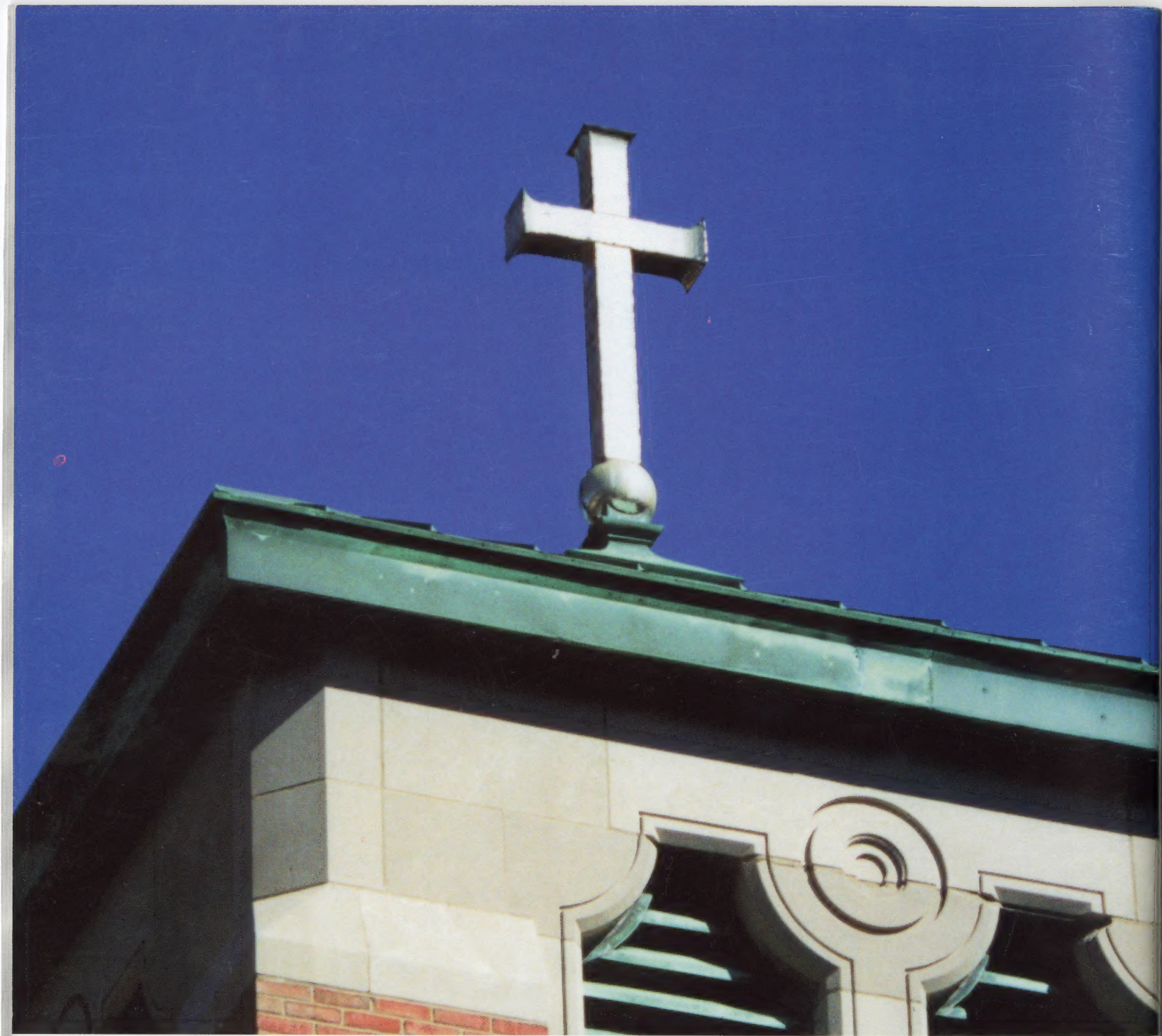
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